

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel comprising a plurality of units each including: a first circuit adapted to receive photonic signals representative of a transmittable signal; and a second circuit adapted to transmit multiplexed photonic signals representative of a multiplexed data signal, wherein the units are operably coupled to a head-end communications circuit [third circuit] and a subsequent set of the units, wherein such coupling provides a ring network configuration.
2. (Original) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of units further comprise: a first module comprising a first surface aligned with the second circuit; and another first circuit aligned with a second surface of the first module.
3. (Currently amended) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 2[1], wherein each of the plurality of units further comprise: a second module comprising a first surface aligned with the first circuit; and another second circuit aligned with a second surface of the second module.
4. (Original) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of units further comprise: an optical window comprising a top edge and a bottom edge; an enclosure coupled to the top edge of the optical window; and a bottom plate coupled to the bottom edge of the optical window, wherein the first circuit and the second circuit of each of the units are protected.
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Original) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 1, wherein the

wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel consists of a fiber optic cable.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Original) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 1, wherein the wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel consists of an infrared data signal path.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Original) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 1, wherein the photonic signals comprise a multiplexed data carrier signal comprised of Ethernet packets.

11. (Original) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 1, wherein the photonic signals comprise multiplexed data carrier signals comprised of Frame Relay packets.

12. (Original) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 1, wherein the photonic signals are frequency domain multiplexed (FDM) signals.

13. (Original) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 1, wherein the photonic signals use On-Off Keying waveforms.

14. (Original) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 1, wherein the photonic signals use Frequency-Shift Keying waveforms.

15. (Original) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 1, wherein the photonic signals use Quadrature-Phase-Shift Keying waveforms.

16. (Original) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 1, wherein the photonic signals use Quadrature-Amplitude-Modulation waveforms.

17. (Original) The wide-signal bandwidth multi-access channel of claim 1, wherein the photonic signals use a proprietary modulation.